



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Library systems to share \$16.8 million in state aid

Aid supports maintenance of local public library service levels across the state

MADISON—Wisconsin's 17 federated public library systems will share \$16.8 million in state aid during 2009 to economize on shared resources and cooperative library services.

The aid payments support regional cooperation and sharing of library resources so libraries can provide higher levels of service to all state residents while reducing duplication. Library system funding is the state's primary program of support for public library service statewide. Systems received the first of two aid payments, which will total \$16,783,500, in November.

"In tough economic times, people turn to public libraries more than ever to access information they need to cope with the challenges they face," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "These payments to the state's regional public library systems support services that allow local public libraries to run as efficiently and economically as possible."

Wisconsin's 388 independent public libraries have all voluntarily joined a public library system. The systems are regional library organizations created to improve public library services and to increase Wisconsin residents' access to library materials and services. Systems use funds according to plans developed and adopted by regional boards to meet the needs of each public library system area. Library system services include:

- ensuring that system residents have complete access to all public libraries within the system area. State residents made 33.3 million visits to public libraries and checked out 60 million items last year.
- coordinating the loan of library materials among participating libraries to meet user needs. Annually, libraries loan 7.2 million items to each other in response to users' requests. System-supported delivery networks deliver interlibrary loan items.

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- providing training and continuing education for local library staff to help them provide the best possible service to their communities.
- coordinating cooperative library technology projects. About 90 percent of the state's public libraries now participate in shared computer systems that offer users on-line catalog access to regional library holdings. All public libraries provide the public with the use of computers with high-speed Internet connections. Two-thirds of all public libraries offer wireless access for laptop users in the library.

“As local and county governments balance the need for local services with taxpayers ability to pay for those services, public library systems help local libraries make the most of their community's library investments and resources,” Burmaster said. “State aid to public library systems is a wise and welcome use of state tax dollars to support the valuable services and materials local public libraries provide.”

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NOTE: A list of public library system aid payments for 2009 follows. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_177.pdf.

2009 State Aid to Public Library Systems

System	Amount
Arrowhead Library System..... <i>Rock County</i>	\$490,327
Eastern Shores Library System..... <i>Sheboygan and Ozaukee counties</i>	\$646,769
Indianhead Federated Library System..... <i>Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, and St. Croix counties</i>	\$1,257,792
Kenosha County Library System.....	\$445,689
Lakeshores Library System..... <i>Racine and Walworth counties</i>	\$712,917
Manitowoc-Calumet County Federated Library System..... <i>Calumet and Manitowoc counties</i>	\$348,919
Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System..... <i>Dodge, Jefferson, and Washington counties</i>	\$843,385
Milwaukee County Federated Library System.....	\$2,992,687
Nicolet Federated Library System..... <i>Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, and Shawano counties</i>	\$1,195,522
Northern Waters Library Service..... <i>Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Sawyer, Vilas, and Washburn counties</i>	\$591,499
Outagamie-Waupaca Library System..... <i>Outagamie and Waupaca counties</i>	\$679,155
South Central Library System..... <i>Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk, and Wood counties</i>	\$2,299,979
Southwest Wisconsin Library System..... <i>Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland counties</i>	\$406,188
Waukesha County Federated Library System.....	\$1,071,682
Winding Rivers Library System..... <i>Buffalo, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon counties</i>	\$858,231
Winnefox Federated Library System..... <i>Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, and Winnebago counties</i>	\$990,351
Wisconsin Valley Library Service..... <i>Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, and Taylor counties</i>	\$952,408
TOTAL	\$16,783,500